IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 50 to 53 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an electrode material for a rechargeable lithium battery in which an oxidation-reduction reaction is used, said process comprising the steps of:

(1) mixing at least one kind of a metal compound (a) selected from the [[a]] group consisting of metal salts and metal complexes of a metal (a') capable of being electrochemically alloyed with lithium, at least one kind of a transition metal compound (b) selected from the [[a]] group consisting of transition metal salts and transition metal complexes of a transition metal (b'), and a complexing agent (c) with a solvent (d) to obtain a mixed solution,

(2) mixing a reducing agent (e) with said mixed solution to obtain a mixture with a pH of less than 2, and

(3) oxidizing said reducing agent contained in said mixture obtained in said step (2) to reduce an ion of said metal (a') and an ion of said transition metal (b') contained in said mixture by adding an alkali to said mixture obtained in said step (2) so that the pH value of said mixture is changed from less than 2 to a value in a range of from 3 to 12, ~~to obtain~~ thereby to obtain an amorphous alloy material capable of being electrochemically alloyed with lithium as said electrode material.

2. (Original) The process according to Claim 1, wherein said amorphous alloy material is a powdery amorphous alloy material containing an amorphous metallic material.

3. (Original) The process according to Claim 2, wherein said powdery amorphous alloy material has a main peak having a half width of more than 0.2° in X-ray diffraction using Kα-rays of Cu as a radiation source.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 2, wherein said powdery amorphous alloy material has a main peak having a half width of more than 0.5° in X-ray diffraction using Kα-rays of Cu as a radiation source.

5. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 2, ~~any of claims 2 to 4,~~ wherein said powdery amorphous alloy material has a peak appeared in a range of 2θ $=25°$ to $50°$ in X-ray diffraction using Kα-rays of Cu as a radiation source, having a half width of more than 0.2°.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 2, ~~any of claims 2 to 4,~~ wherein said powdery amorphous alloy material has a peak appeared in a range of $2\theta=25°$ to $50°$ in X-ray diffraction using Kα-rays of Cu as a radiation source having a half width of more than 0.5°.

7. (Original) The process according to claim 2, wherein said powdery amorphous alloy material has a crystallite size calculated from X-ray diffraction analysis, which is less than 50 nm.

8. (Original) The process according to claim 2, wherein said powdery amorphous alloy material has a crystallite size calculated from X-ray diffraction analysis, which is less than 20 nm.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said metal (a') comprises at least one kind of a metal selected from the [[a]] group consisting of Bi, In, Pb Si, Ag, Sr, Ge, Zn, Sn, Cd, Sb, Ti, and Hg.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said metal (a') comprises at least one kind of a metal selected from <u>the</u> [[a]] group consisting of Bi, In, Pb, Zn, Sn Sb and T1.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein said metal (a') substantially comprises Sn.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 11, wherein said amorphous alloy material contains an amorphous Sn•A•X alloy with a substantially non-stoichiometric ratio composition, with, A being at least one kind of a transition metal

element, and X being at least one kind of an element selected from the [[a]] group consisting of B, C, N, O, P, and S, where the element X is not always necessary to be contained, and said amorphous Sn•A•X alloy has a relationship of Sn/(Sn+A+X)=20 to 80 atomic in terms of the atom number of each element.

13. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein said transition metal (b') comprises at least one kind of a transition metal selected from the [[a]] group consisting of Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Mi, Cu, Mo, Tc, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, Ti, V, Y, Sc, Zr, Nb, Hf, Ta, and W.

14. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 12,~~ wherein said transition metal (b') comprises at least one kind of a transition metal selected from the [[a]] group consisting of Cr, M, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, Os, Ir, Pt, and Au.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 12,~~ wherein said transition metal (b') comprises at least one of a transition metal selected from the [[a]] group consisting of Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu.

16. (Original) The process according to claim 12, wherein said amorphous alloy material has a peak appeared in a range of $2\theta=25°$ to $50°$ in X-ray diffraction using $K\alpha$-rays of Cu as a radiation source, having a half width of more than $0.2°$.

17. (Original) The process according to claim 12, wherein said amorphous alloy material has a peak appeared in a range of 2θ=25° to 50° in X-ray diffraction using Kα-rays of Cu as a radiation source, having a half width of more than 0.5°.

18. (Original) The process according to claim 12, wherein said amorphous alloy material has a crystallite size calculated from X-ray diffraction analysis, which is less than 50 nm.

19. (Original) The process according to claim 12, wherein said amorphous alloy material has a crystallite size calculated from X-ray diffraction analysis, which is less than 20 nm.

20. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 19,~~ wherein said amorphous alloy material has an average particle size in a range of from 0.1 to 2 μm.

21. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 19,~~ wherein said amorphous alloy material has an average particle size in a range of from 0.1 to 1μm.

22. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 20 [[or 21]], wherein said amorphous alloy material has a particle size distribution in a range of from

0.01 to 20 μm.

23. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 20 [[or 21]], wherein said amorphous alloy material has a particle size distribution in a range of from 0.05 to 1 μm.

24. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 20 [[or 21]], wherein said amorphous alloy material has an average value of [longest length of particle]/[shortest length of particle], which is in a range of from 1.0 to 2.0.

25. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 20 [[or 21]], wherein said amorphous alloy material has an average value of [longest length of particle]/[shortest length of particle], which is in a range of from 1.0 to 1.5.

26. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 19,~~ wherein said amorphous alloy material has a specific surface area of more than 10 m^2/g.

27. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 19,~~ wherein said amorphous alloy material has a specific surface area of more than 30 m^2/g.

28. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 19,~~ wherein said metal compound (a) is soluble in said solvent (d).

29. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said metal compound (a) comprises at least one kind of a metal salt selected from a group consisting of chlorides, sulfates and nitrates of said metal (a').

30. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any or claims 11 to 27,~~ wherein said metal compound (a) comprises at least one kind of a metal salt selected from a group consisting of chlorides, sulfates and nitrates of Sn.

31. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said transition metal compound (b) is soluble in said solvent (d).

32. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said transition metal compound (b) comprises at least one kid of a metal salt selected from <u>the</u> ~~a~~ group consisting of chlorides, sulfates and nitrates of said transition metal (b').

33. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said complexing agent (c) comprises at least one kind of a compound selected from a group consisting of organic carboxylic acids and amines.

34. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 33, wherein said complexing agent (c) comprises at least one kind of a compound selected from the [[a]] group consisting of citric acids, ethylenedianminetetraacetic acid, and salts thereof.

35. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said reducing agent (e) comprises a material having an electrode potential which is inferior by more than 0.1 V to that of said metal (a') or said transition metal (b') which is the lowest.

36. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said reducing agent (e) comprises a material having an electrode potential which is inferior by more than 0.2 V to that of said metal (a') or said transition metal (b') which is the lowest.

37. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~claim 30,~~ wherein said reducing agent (e) comprises a material having a property that an aqueous solution of said material maintained at 25 °C. exhibits a normal electrode potential al of less than -0.2 V.

38. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~claim 30,~~ wherein said reducing agent (e) comprises a material having a property that an aqueous solution of said material maintained at 25°C. exhibits a normal electrode potential of less

than -0.5 V.

39. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 35 to 39,~~ wherein said reducing agent (e) comprises at least one kind of a compound selected from <u>the</u> [[a]] group consisting of lower oxygen compounds such as hypophosphorous acid, phosphorous acid, sulfurous acid, thiosulfuric acid, and dithionous acid; salts of these compounds; metal salts in the low valence state of Fe (II), Ti (III) and Cr (II); organic compounds such as formaldehyde, formic acid, and oxalic acid; and salts of these organic compounds.

40. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said reducing agent (e) is soluble in said solvent (d).

41. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1,</u> ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said solvent (d) comprises at least one kind of a solvent selected from <u>the</u> [[a]] group consisting of water and polar solvents.

42. (Currently Amended) The process according to <u>claim 1</u> ~~claims~~ 41, wherein said polar solvent includes alcohol, ester compounds, amide compounds, nitrile compounds, amine compounds, halogen compounds, sulfur compounds, liquid ammonia, and glacial acetic acid.

43. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said solvent comprises at least one kind of a solvent selected from a group consisting of water and alcohols.

44. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said mixed solution obtained in said step (1) contains a complex formed by said metal (a') and said complexing agent (c).

45. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein said mixed solution obtained in said step (1) contains a complex formed by said transition metal (b') end said complexing agent (c).

46. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the step (2) of mixing the reducing agent (e) with the mixed solution obtained in the step (1) is performed under condition with a temperature of -10 to 100° C.

47. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the step (2) of mixing the reducing agent (e) with the mixed solution obtained in the step (1) is performed under condition with a temperature of 10 to 90° C.

48. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the step (3) of oxidizing the reducing agent (e) contained in the mixture obtained in the step (2) is performed under condition with a temperature of -10 to 100° C.

49. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the step (3) of oxidizing the reducing agent (e) contained in the mixture obtained in the step (2) is performed under condition with a temperature of 10 to 90° C.

50 to 53. (Cancelled).

54. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~claim 52,~~ wherein the addition of said alkali in the step (3) is performed so that the pH value of the mixture is changed from less than 2 to a value in at range of from 5 to 10.

55. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~claim 52,~~ wherein the alkali comprises at least one kind of a compound selected from the ~~a~~ group consisting of hydroxides of alkali metals, hydroxides of alkaline earth metals, amines, and ammonia.

56. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the step (2) is performed in an atmosphere comprising at least one kind of a gas selected from the [[a]] group consisting of hydrogen gas, nitrogen gas, and inert gas such as argon gas and helium gas.

57. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the step (3) is performed in an atmosphere comprising at least one kind of a

gas selected from the [[a]] group consisting of hydrogen gas, nitrogen gas, and inert gas such as argon gas and helium gas.

58. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the metal compound (a) and the transition metal compound (b) are used respectively in such an amount that [the number of moles of the metal (a') in the metal compound (a)]/[the number of moles of the transition metal (b') in the transition metal compound (b)] falls in a range of from 0.1 to 10.

59. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the metal compound (a) and the transition metal compound (b) are used respectively in such an amount that [the number of moles of the metal (a') in the metal compound (a)]/[the number of moles of the transition metal in the transition metal compound (b)] falls in a range of from 0.2 to 5.

60. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the complexing agent (c) is used in such an amount that [the number of moles of the complexing agent(c)]/[the number of moles of the metal compound (a) + the number of moles of the transition metal compound (b)] falls in a range of from 1 to 5.

61. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the completing agent (c) is used in such an amount that [the number of

moles of the complexing agent (c)]/[the number of moles of the metal compound (a)+the number of moles of the transition metal compound (b)] falls in a range of from 2 to 5.

62. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the reducing agent (e) is used in an amount which is 1 to 3 times versus the sum of the equivalence point of the metal compound (a) and that of the transition metal compound (b).

63. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27,~~ wherein the reducing agent (e) is used in an amount which is 1 to 2 times versus the sum of the equivalence point of the metal compound (a) and that of the transition metal compound (b).

64. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27~~ which further includes a step of washing said amorphous alloy material.

65. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27~~ which further includes a step of drying said amorphous alloy material.

66. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 27~~ which rather includes a step of grinding said amorous alloy material.

67. (Currently Amended - Withdrawn) An electrode structural body comprising an electrode material produced by the process defined in any of claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 66~~ and a collector constituted by a material incapable of being alloyed with lithium in electrochemical reaction.

68. (Withdrawn) An electrode structural body according to claim 67, wherein a layer comprising said electrode material is formed on said collector.

69. (Withdrawn) An electrode structural body according to claim 67, wherein a layer comprising said electrode material and a binder is formed on said collector.

70. (Withdrawn) An electrode structural body according to claim 67, wherein a layer comprising said electrode material, an electrically conductive auxiliary, and a binder is formed on said collector.

71. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) An electrode structural body according to claim 69 [[or 70]], wherein the binder comprises a water-soluble organic polymer material.

72. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an electrode structural body, including a step of arranging an electrode material produced by the process defined in claim 1, ~~any of claims 1 to 66~~ on a collector constituted by a material incapable of being

alloyed with lithium in electrochemical reaction ~~reactions~~.

73. (Original) The process according to claim 72, wherein said electrode material is arranged on said collector by way of press-forming.

74. (Original) The process according to claim 72 which comprises a step of preparing a paste by mixing said electrode material with a binder and, if necessary, a solvent and a step of arranging said paste on said collector.

75. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery comprising at least an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte and in which oxidation-reduction reaction of lithium is used, characterized in that said anode comprises an electrode structural body defined in any of claim 1 ~~claims 67 to 71~~.

76. (Withdrawn) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 75, wherein said cathode comprises a lithium-containing electrode material.

77. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A process for producing a rechargeable lithium battery comprising at least an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte and in which oxidation-reduction reaction of lithium is used, characterized by including a step (i) of forming said anode by arranging an electrode material produced by the process defined in any of claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 66~~ on a collector comprising a material incapable of

being alloyed with lithium in electrochemical reaction to form an electrode structural body as said anode and a step (ii) of arranging said anode and said cathode to oppose to each other through said electrolyte.

78. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 77, wherein the step (i) includes a step of arranging said electrode material on said collector by way of press-forming.

79. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 77, wherein the step (i) includes a step of preparing a paste by mixing said electrode material with a binder and, if necessary, a solvent and a step of arranging said paste on said collector.

80. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 77 which further includes a step of forming said cathode using a lithium-containing electrode material.